

# THE SOUTHERN SCREAM

for ACE members in the Southeast Region

Volume XII, Issue 2

Spring/Summer, 2011

Alabama - Mississippi - North Carolina - Georgia - South Carolina - Tennessee - the Florida panhandle



Josh Herrington

## Spring Fling For Beginners

Story by Haley Andrews

**M**y name is Haley Andrews and I am 11 years old. The Spring Fling ACE event was my very first time at an ACE event. The ERT on the morning of May 29, 2011 started out with a ride on Acrophobia and it was my first time ever riding it, but will not be my last time. It was the most scariest ride I have ever rode, but I loved it! The next ERT ride I rode was Dare Devil Dive. I rode it twelve times and it was one of the most daring rides yet. My favorite part was at the end when the car just rolls over upside down. I held my hands up on the whole ride every time I rode it except for the very first time. Goliath was the next ERT ride and I rode it ten

times without even getting off and it was a cool ride too. We rode all the rides and had ERT on all of the other big roller coasters too, but Dare Devil Dive and Goliath are my favorite. The walk back tour of the restricted areas was cool and we took a group photo right in front of Mindbender's first loop. I loved it! The whole entire event was the coolest thing I've ever done and I plan on going to Spring Fling every year!

**Check out more Spring Fling  
2011 coverage on Page 6!**

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# Upcoming ACE Regional & National Events...

**Coaster Mayhem**, August 13: World's Of Fun (Kansas City, MO)

**ACE Day At Canobie Lake Park**, August 13: Canobie Lake Park (Salem, NH)

**ACE Is Getting Wet**, February 26: Great Wolf Lodge (Williamsburg, VA)

**Funtown Fest 2011**, August 14: Funtown / Splashtown USA (Saco, ME)

**KC BahnCon**, August 14: Schlitterbahn Kansas City Waterpark (Kansas City, KS)

**ACE Fall Fantasy**, September 21: Kennywood Park (West Mifflin, PA)

**ACE Summer Preservation Conference**, August 26-27: Silverwood Theme Park (Athol, ID)

**Fall Thrillfest**, September 9: Kings Dominion (Doswell, VA)

**ACE Day At Adventure Park USA**, September 11: Adventure Park (New Market, MD)

**Rollercoasters, Eh?**, September 17: Canada's Wonderland (Vaughan, ON)

**Riding Of The Bulls Tres**, September 24: Six Flags Great Adventure (Jackson, NJ)

**An Evening Of Haunts**, October 1: Kings Dominion (Doswell, VA)

**Knott's Halloween Haunt**, October 2: Knott's Scary Farm (Buena Park, CA)

**Celebrate America At Six Flags America**, October 2: Six Flags America (Largo, MD)

**Phoenix Phall Phunfest**, October 8: Knoebels Amusement Resort (Elysburg, PA)

**Ridefest**, October 9: Lakemont Park (Altoona, PA)

**ACE Day At Busch Gardens Tampa**, November 19: Busch Gardens Tampa Bay (Tampa, FL)

**Smoky Mountain Coasterfest**, November 19: Dollywood (Pigeon Forge, TN) \*See event flyer this newsletter!\*

**Christmastown & ACE**, December 3: Busch Gardens Williamsburg (Williamsburg, VA)

**CoasterBash! XXIII**, March 3: Salvatore's (Pittsburgh, PA)

**Coaster Con XXXV**, June 17-22: Dollywood (Pigeon Forge, TN) and Carowinds (Charlotte, NC)

Register at [www.acesoutheast.org](http://www.acesoutheast.org) to be included in the ACE Southeast electronic updates via email!



Sunday, October 30

12:00pm - 9:00pm

Six Flags Over Georgia

Join ACE Southeast for an informal get-together on the last operating day of the season! No registration fees required, just show up and have fun! RSVP's required. For more information and to RSVP, contact [kfowler@aceonline.org](mailto:kfowler@aceonline.org).



Saturday, November 5

10:00pm - 6:00pm

Six Flags Over Georgia

Join the park for a private, season pass holders only day. Look for additional details regarding this great event to be announced in the future!

# Welcome New Members ...as of 7/27/2011

## Alabama

Bill Pfaff, Birmingham  
Joshua Pfaff, Birmingham  
Elizabeth Tisdale-Bowling, Arab  
John McGee, Florence

## South Carolina

The Amos Family, Rock Hill  
(Joy, Lexi & Paige)  
Ford Simmons, Lake City  
Steve Lee, Columbia, SC  
Karen Lawson, Columbia SC

## North Carolina

The Barlock Family, Raleigh  
(Denise, Stephanie, Chris & Michael)  
Megan Brown, Charlotte  
Tyler Reason, Wilson  
Devin Singley, Greensboro

## Georgia

Molly Smallhorn, Sharpsburg  
The Mahan Family, Tucker  
(Terri & Delaney)  
The Berg Family, Atlanta  
(Sherron, Drew, Allie & Andy)  
Brandon Evans, Dublin  
Tim Lyon, Fayetteville  
Steven Carpenter, Savannah  
Charles Carpenter, Atlanta  
Samuel Bignault, Savannah  
Justin Williams, Forsyth  
The Moore Family, Monroe  
(Thomas, Judy & Emory)  
Mitchell Casey, Atlanta  
Kirk Wasson, Lawrenceville

## Tennessee

Logan Austin, Knoxville  
The Gonzales Family, Hendersonville  
(Reed & Rachel)  
Britt Tabor, Chattanooga  
Steve Johnson, Chattanooga  
Katherine Mustafa, Chattanooga  
Michael King, Knoxville  
Miriam Keegan, Knoxville  
Jared Hammond, East Ridge  
Jordan Pitner, East Ridge  
Lupton Winningham, Chattanooga  
Margaret Longwith, Chattanooga  
David Murray, Hixson  
Chanda Curtis, Chattanooga  
David Stevens, Memphis  
Deborah Stevens, Memphis  
Griffin Elder, Jonesborough

**Log-in to [www.aceonline.org](http://www.aceonline.org) to access the ACE Membership Directory and easily locate these and other ACE Members contact information**



[www.twitter.com/acesoutheast](http://www.twitter.com/acesoutheast)



[www.facebook.com/acesoutheast](http://www.facebook.com/acesoutheast)



[www.acesoutheast.org](http://www.acesoutheast.org)

Register online at [www.acesoutheast.org](http://www.acesoutheast.org) to be included in the ACE Southeast email updates!

# A Mid-Winter's Dream

Story By Josh Herrington

The first ever ACE Southeast "Winter Warm Up" off season event on Saturday, February 19 proved itself worthy of repeating. ACE members, their guest and various park personnel from around the region gathered in the employee training center at Six Flags Over Georgia with numbers totaling an even sixty. Check in started bright and early at 8:00am with various muffins and bottle water provided to tie all those hungry bellies over until lunch. Always a timely person, the regional rep Josh Herrington promptly started things off at 9:00am with Alabama Adventure being the first up.

Alabama Adventure kicked their presentations off with a look at some footage they filmed over the past summer to show off the park to those in attendance that might have never been to the park before. The footage was followed with an overview of their new for 2011 attraction, Buzzsaw Falls. The park provided several artist renderings of the attraction and the new area where it will be located and gave an inside look at what they've been busy with in the off season. Following their

presentation, the park provided lots of goodies such as Alabama Adventure lanyards, coffee mugs and microphone stress balls to everyone in attendance! Carowinds was up next but sadly they couldn't make the event due to other obligations. They did send along a presentation that regional rep Josh Herrington presented about their new for 2011 attractions though. At the end of the presentation, Josh discussed the new partnership ACE has formed with Give Kids The World Village and the Cedar Fair parks this year for the Coasting For Kids event later in the year and then distributed the Intimidator mousepad goodies that Carowinds sent down to attendees.

Up next was Six Flags Over Georgia who talked about their new for 2011 attraction, Dare Devil Dive. The park covered everything that they'd been up to in the off season as well as what fun stuff is in store for the Spring Fling attendees later in the year. At the conclusion of their presentation, the park provided insulated cups for all attendees as well as Dare Devil Dive pins that everyone got when they first arrived in the training center. Wild Ad-

ventures was up next and the park wasted no time in presenting 3 people who answered trivia questions about the park with a rhino hat to help build excitement for the parks newest members – 2 white rhinos on loan from the San Diego Zoo! Their presentation cover the new expansion to the water park for the 2011 season as well as the train tracks getting extended to offer guest an up close encounter with the new rhinos. The park discussed the plans for this year's Running Wild event on April 2 and then distributed sun glasses to everyone in attendance.

Wild Adventures finished up a little early so to kill a few minutes until Pete from Dollywood could get there, the Schlitterbahn "Office" spoof video was shown to build excitement for their add on day following Coaster Con this year. As soon as the video was over, Pete entered the room fresh from a flight down with a flight instructor. He covered Dollywood's new addition "Barnstormer" and the renovated area that it is being built in and hinted that the park would start to ramp up the

...continued on Page 5



Representatives from Alabama Adventure, Wild Adventures, Dollywood & Six Flags Over Georgia were all on hand to showcase their parks!



ACEer's pose for a group photo after an All-You-Can-Eat Varsity meal!

marketing campaign for it 2012 addition shortly. When Pete finished the presentation, he took back to the skies with his instructor and headed for home while a few goodies from Lake Winnie (who also couldn't make it) were distributed to attendees. These included park magnets and pins.

Lunch was a few minutes away from starting so a few videos from the South Central region of ACE were shown highlighting the parks that are in the lineup for this year's Coaster Con and promptly concluding their premier, that famous Atlanta institution "The Varsity" was ready to greet hungry people with their famous line "What'll Ya Have?" Hot Dogs and Hamburgers every which way imaginable were on the menu and with an all you can eat menu from a Varsity food truck the cooks had plenty of food for those

wanting seconds.

After lunch was over, lots of raffle prizes that the parks brought over were awarded to attendees. Everything from an old Six Flags jacket to ride signs and even a Wild Adventures bag stocked with lots of park goodies. Once everything was raffled off it was time for a construction tour of Dare Devil Dive. Attendees were treated to an off season look at Six Flags Over Georgia that surprisingly looked like it never closed for the winter. Flowers were planted, rides were painted and the park was in top notch form. After a short walk over, everyone was treated to a look at the construction site that didn't yet have any vertical construction other than a few supports for the tunnel. The park wanted to give everyone a tour of the track in the parking lot, but with the snowy weather from

the previous month, the park was running full speed ahead to get Dare Devil Dive up and running and the road to the parking lot was busy with construction equipment – not a safe place for 60 people to be wandering around.

After everyone got lots of pictures and asked questions about the ride, everyone headed back to the training room to get their belongings and with that, the first ever Winter Warm Up was officially over. Thanks go to the parks for getting presentations together, making the drive (or flight) to the event and for providing goodies for everyone in attendance and huge thanks to those that came to the event. Who would've ever thought sixty folks would show up to sit in a meeting all day!

# ACE Southeast At Coaster Con XXXIV



Congratulations to Assistant Rep Maegen Worley, as her hard work on our website paid off with another 1st place win in the website contest!



Kim Fowler



Kim Fowler

ACE Southeast Assistant Rep Chip Sieczko mans the Southeast Region's "swag bag" table during the Social Mixer at this years Coaster Con!

The Southeast Midway Olympic Team "Dare Devils" after completing the course! Pictured are (from left to right): Robert Ulrich, Kim Fowler, Ronald Jiu, Michael Morris & Chip Sieczko.

# A DARING SPRING FLING

Story By Kim Fowler

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 130 ACE members and guests came out for a hot, steamy day at SFOG. Registration started with several surprises handed out by Six Flags; a free photo of your choice, a free drink and a coupon for free parking at any other Six Flags park.

After registration everyone enjoyed breakfast on their way to ERT on Georgia Scorcher, Georgia Cyclone, Goliath, Batman, Mindbender & Dare Devil Dive. Of course Dare Devil Dive was the reason for moving Spring Fling from March to May this year.

After ERT everyone enjoyed the park until lunch was served in the picnic area. Tickets were sold for the walk back tour and we also auctioned off three items provided by Six Flags. Dennis Satterfield of Toney, AL outbid everyone for all three items including a restraint from Déjà Vu and a lap bar and side panel from Mindbender.

After lunch everyone enjoyed the park and tried to stay cool until meeting back at the Crystal Pistol for a nighttime reception complete with beer, wine, soft drinks, snacks and AMAZING fried pies. The park put together a DVD they named "Six Flags over Georgia Through the Years" and surprised everyone with a copy! They also supplied many great door prizes that were handed out, including all of the Dare Devil Dive signage from media day which was held the Thursday before Spring Fling.

The night ended with more ERT on Ninja, Great American Scream Machine, Superman, Goliath & Dare Devil Dive. The feedback was exceptional as we poured ourselves out of the park after another sunny, yes I said SUNNY, Spring Fling.

Special thanks to the entire Six Flags Over Georgia crew for pulling off another great Spring Fling!!



Spring Fling attendees take a break and pause for a quick group photo.



ACEer's enjoying the first ever ERT session on Dare Devil Dive!



You heard 'em. Daredevils only!

# MISSISSIPPI'S GIANT HOUSEPARTY

Story By Josh Herrington

If you hear the words “County Fair” and thoughts of roller coasters, flat rides and sugary, sweet foods come to mind, you are not thinking about The Neshoba County Fair, otherwise known as “Mississippi’s Giant Houseparty”. It occurs each year around the end of July or the first of August in Philadelphia, Mississippi and for most people in the region; it’s the

one week long event you never want to miss. While the midway full of carnival rides is enticing to the younger generation, this fair is all about family.

There are over 600 individually owned cabins throughout the fairground property that are the center of activity for families staying at the fair and the front porch is the most popular place for

gathering. Porches are for sitting, visiting and just watching the neighborhood activities. Neighborhoods such as Happy Hollow, Sunset Strip, Founders Square and Pleasant Hill all have their own personalities and traditions.

As Robert Craycroft said in *The Neshoba County Fair: Place and Paradox in Mississippi*, "Conversation is the underlying reality of the Fair. It is the impetus for thousands of people to live in crowded cabins under the intense August sun, and it is the glue that has brought together and has held together generation after generation of Neshoba Countians."

Great food is another attraction at the Fair. Meals are the result of months of planning and preparation. Friends and visitors that stop by cabins to visit are often invited to stay for a meal. Gallons of tea, lemonade and coolers of ice are always plentiful in every cabin.

There are plenty of other things that make up a day at the Fair besides visiting and eating though. There are midway rides to go ride, prizes to win, new friends to make and old ones to see again. There are horse races to get excited about, exhibits to see and politicians to shake hands with.

There's an antique car parade to watch and something called a chair race that just can't be explained. In fact the Fair itself can't really be explained. Only when you've walked in the sawdust covered Square on a hot summer day can you begin to understand.

Fair cabins line both sides of one of the many neighborhoods of the Fairgrounds.



Josh Herrington



Josh Herrington

Harness racing is a popular event that everyone enjoys going to watch. The cabins in the background are loaded with people cheering on their favorite racer!



## Saturday, November 19, 2011

Bring the 2011 coaster season to an end in a way that only the Southeast region can provide. Millions of twinkling lights, cooler temperatures and the smell of Christmas in the air means it's time once again to make our annual pilgrimage to the one place so

special that only Dolly Parton herself could create it; Dollywood. We'll start our annual Smoky Mountain Coasterfest off by warming everyone up with our usual ERT on Blazing Fury followed by kicking off the infamous 6th Annual DSMC Scavenger Hunt that you know you don't want to miss out on!

We're still working on some other special surprises to pull out of Santa's toy bag for that day, that we can't mention just yet. Rest assured that a hot cocoa reception and ERT on Mystery Mine and Thunderhead will be included!

The price remains unchanged from last year with ACE Members having a season pass paying only \$20 and guests with a season pass paying only \$30. For those ACE Members without a pass, \$50 will get you in and for those guests without one, \$60 will cover you, and just like last year, they can be upgraded to a season pass!

Event Prices	With Season Pass*	Without Season Pass
ACE Member	\$20	\$50
Guest	\$30	\$60

\*You must have a season pass in hand before purchasing this option!

## Schedule Summary

(all times Eastern)

8:30am	Registration at the front gate until 9:30am. If you're late, packets will be available at the Will Call office until 5:00pm.
9:30am	Exclusive walk back to <i>Blazing Fury</i> for ERT starting at 9:45am for one hour.
10:45am	Group Photo, Announcements and Scavenger Hunt questions distributed.
11:00am	Dollywood opens to the public.
6:00pm	Scavenger Hunt ends - completed questionnaires can be dropped off at <i>Lumber Camp</i> restaurant (near <i>Timber Tower</i> )
8:30pm	Hot cocoa reception at <i>Lumber Camp</i> and Scavenger Hunt prizes awarded
9:00pm	Dollywood closes to the public
9:30pm	1 hour ERT begins on <i>Mystery Mine &amp; Thunderhead</i>

### Registration Form - Smoky Mountain Coasterfest at Dollywood - Saturday, November 19, 2011

Name:			Membership # or Guest of:		
City:	State:	Email Address:		Event Fee:	
Name:			Membership # or Guest of:		
City:	State:	Email Address:		Event Fee:	
Name:			Membership # or Guest of:		
City:	State:	Email Address:		Event Fee:	
Name:			Membership # or Guest of:		
City:	State:	Email Address:		Event Fee:	

**Advanced Registration Only! Sorry, there is no on-site registration for this event.**

Mail in registration must be post-marked by **Wednesday, November 2, 2011**  
Last day for online registration is **Sunday, November 6, 2011**

**Total Payment: \$**

Send your completed order form & payment to:

**Josh Herrington, ACE Regional Rep**  
**653 Teagarden Lane**  
**Starkville, MS 39759-7409**

To register for this event, complete this form and mail it in. Make check payable to JOSH HERRINGTON. Personal checks & money orders only. Don't like snail mail? Register online at [www.acesoutheast.org](http://www.acesoutheast.org) (service fees apply).

While Dollywood will endeavor to provide ride times and the rides listed, inclement weather, equipment problems or other unforeseen circumstances may affect this schedule. Your registration is a non-refundable fee, and all registrations are final. Admission to the park and ERT sessions are included in your registration fee. The payment of registration fees by, for or on behalf of participants releases and holds harmless the American Coaster Enthusiasts, Inc., and its Officers, Directors, Executive Committee Members, and representatives from any and all liabilities related to those activities. Members of ACE are expected to abide by the club's code of conduct at all times during the event, and members are also responsible for the conduct of non-member guests. At this time, we can not accommodate those attendees with Vegan food requirements.



# A DAY AT THE LAKE... LAKE WINNIE THAT IS!

Story By Chip Siczko

**M**ay 28<sup>th</sup> saw the return of over 50 ACEs to Lake Winnepesaukah in Rossville, Georgia.

The 86 year old park is beloved in the region as the oldest family owned traditional amusement park in the Southeast.

The morning began with one hour of ERT on two of three Lake Winnie's coasters. Standing on the far side of the namesake lake is John Allen's 1967 out and back Cannon Ball. Standing at 70 feet tall, the ride features two PTC buzzbar trains – one each in Union blue and Confederate gray. The care given by the park to the ride is evident not only in the smooth ride and gentle airtime but also by the continued use of manually operated brakes.



A picturesque Lake Winnie awaited ACEer's on a beautiful day!

Across the midway lies the Wild Lightnin' mouse. One of three L&T Systems 30x20 Wild Mouse installs in the US – and the only one currently in operation – the ride opened in 2001 and provides many of the young ones

at the park a stepping stone from the park's Wacky Worm to the Cannon Ball. This year saw a makeover of the classic Castle dark ride into the bright

and colorful Wacky Factory. The new theme seems to better suit the family audience of the park while still offering classic fun house gags like a spinning tunnel and a near miss with a truck – complete with horn and headlights.

As the morning went on, some ACEs took a ride on the Eli Bridge Ferris Wheel and Zamperla Wave Swinger – both rescued from the now defunct Miracle Strip Amusement Park in Panama Beach, FL. The Huss Rainbow themed as the Conestoga came to Lake Winnie from Hersheypark.

Lunch was a buffet featuring barbeque pork, chicken fingers, pasta salad, fruit salad and a trip

to Lake Winnie's own Mayfield Ice Cream truck!

ACEs then spent the afternoon participating in a mini golf tournament - the prizes were parts of the Cannon Ball graciously donated by the park - and enjoying the park's impressive collection of historic rides. For the young and young at heart, there is PTC Carousel 39. The ride opened at Atlanta's Lakewood Park in 1916 and was moved to Lake Winnie in 1965. Those looking to cool off can enjoy the Boat Chute, which was built in 1927 and is considered to be the oldest mill chute of its kind in the US. The only remaining Eyerly Fly-O-Plane in the US gives thrill seekers a chance to see if they can make their planes perform barrel rolls.

As the day ended, park owner Talley Rhodes-Green made a point of thanking ACE for coming – and added that she can't wait to see us again!



Everyone's favorite meal - dessert!

# RUNNING WILD AT WILD ADVENTURES

Story By Kitty Wintemute

On April 2, 17 little devils went down to Georgia and “ran wild” at Wild Adventures. Running Wild is one of the best events held in the Southeast region and I’d bet there isn’t a bigger bang for your buck than this wonderful get-together. Where else can you get free parking, early concert seating set-up, a food voucher for anywhere in the park, ERT on Hangman and the re-tracked Cheetah, a fun photo scavenger hunt, exclusive access to the water park, an evening reception in a private area, AND two free concerts by well known artists?

We arrived early (only the second car in the lot) and waited at the front gate to be let in. After picking up our registration packets and catching up with friends, we were escorted to the concert area to set up our chairs before anyone else. The park reps then led us back to Cheetah for our first ride of the morning. The last time we were at Wild Adventures, the re-track was not yet complete, and reports of how great a ride it is now were not exaggerated!

Once ERT was over, we wasted no time in starting our scavenger hunt. We needed our camera, as all the “answers” were to be photographed. As we made our way around the park looking for clues, some of which we had to ride and have our picture taken on, we stopped for lunch and used the food vouchers that we had been given. When the contest deadline arrived, we took our memory card to the meeting spot and turned in our entry.

Just as the first free concert of .38 Special began, the group met nearby in a private reception area for a tasty light dinner, announcements and giveaways. Our team won first place in the scavenger hunt, and everyone that attended left with a prize. After the reception was over, we headed to the concert area for our second free concert of the day, The Charlie Daniels Band!

I would like to thank everyone at Wild Adventures for putting together such a fantastic event. I would also like to implore all ACE members to really think about coming to this great event in 2012!



The Running Wild attendees are ready to ride!



Wild Adventure's was ready and waiting when we arrived!

The Running Wild attendees are ready to ride a renovated Cheetah!



# Children's Miracle Network Hospitals A Walk <sup>In</sup> The Park at SixFlags®

Story By Kim Fowler



SFOG Communications Manager, Brad Malone, and a few other ACE members help cheer on the participants during the event.

The fourth annual A Walk In The Park was held on June 12th at SFOG. Proceeds from the event will help Children's Miracle Network Hospitals treat kids for every injury and illness, from cancer and heart defects, to Cystic Fibrosis and accident trauma.

227 people gathered to support this great cause walking three laps around the inside loop of the park. Everyone that walked received a backpack full of goodies and breakfast before the walk. After the walk door prizes were given out and the person with the most money raised won tickets to the Taylor Swift concert. Participants that raised at least \$50 were treated to ERT on Dare Devil Dive and free admission to the park for the day. The total raised at our great Southeast park was \$27,906.59 and several ACE members enjoyed volunteering to help the park with the event. I hope more of us can help out with next years walk. If you are interested in volunteering in 2012 please let Kim Fowler know.

The total raised at all Six Flags parks across the country was an amazing \$304,913.27!!!

## REGIONAL HAUNT HAPPENINGS

Haunting season is right around the corner and we thought it would be nice to include a listing of what ghoulish things our regional theme parks are bringing to the table this year. Here is the latest we have on all of the regional haunts, prices and attractions are subject to change without notice.

**Please verify operating schedules, ride availability and admission prices with the parks before attending!!!**



Who: Carowinds

What: Scarowinds

When: Friday and Saturday nights throughout late September and Friday, Saturday & Sunday nights throughout October. Check website for specific operating times.

Price: Separately priced admission required.



Who: Lake Winnie

What: Lake Winnepesookah

When: Friday and Saturday nights throughout October. Check website for specific operating times.

Price: Included with park admission.



Who: Six Flags Over Georgia

What: Fright Fest

When: Saturday's and Sunday's throughout October (and two select Friday nights). Check website for specific operating times.

Price: Included with park admission. Some Fright Fest attractions may required an additional charge.



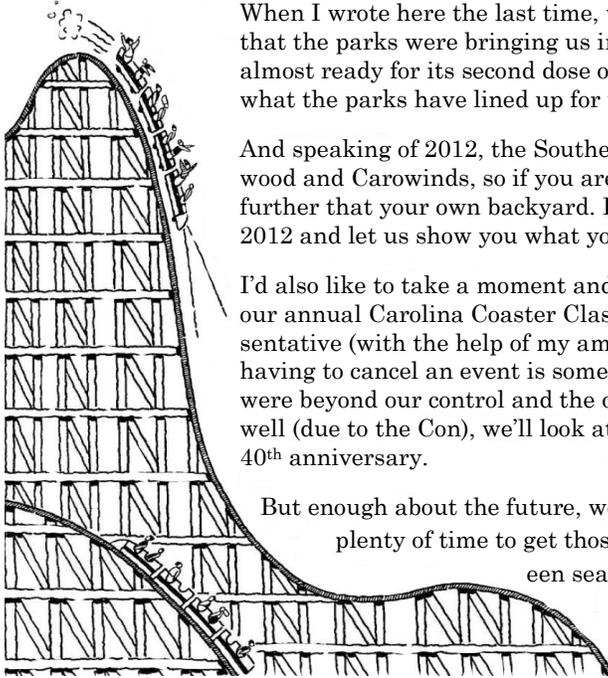
Who: Wild Adventures

What: Phobia

When: Friday and Saturday nights throughout October (and the last Friday in September). Check website for specific operating times.

Price: Included with park admission.

# The Brake Run



When I wrote here the last time, we were ushering in a new year and getting excited for the new toys that the parks were bringing us in 2011. Now as I write here this time, the 2011 coaster season is almost ready for its second dose of “weekend only” operations, and we’re already whispering about what the parks have lined up for us in 2012.

And speaking of 2012, the Southeast Region will host the annual Coaster Con event in June at Dollywood and Carowinds, so if you are wondering where to take that family vacation next year, look no further than your own backyard. If you’ve never attended “The Con” before, consider joining us in 2012 and let us show you what you’ve been missing!

I’d also like to take a moment and apologize to those members who were looking forward to attending our annual Carolina Coaster Classic (C3) event at Carowinds this year. My goal as Regional Representative (with the help of my amazing Assistants) is to create events that make people happy and having to cancel an event is something that I never want to do. Unfortunately, situations arose that were beyond our control and the only solution was to cancel it. Since the event will miss next year as well (due to the Con), we’ll look at bringing C3 back in 2013 just in time to help the park celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

But enough about the future, we’ve still got several more months of 2011 left. That gives us plenty of time to get those last minute water park trips in and still prepare for the Halloween season. And from what I’m hearing, this year’s haunted theme parks will be the most ghoulish ones yet. See you in line!

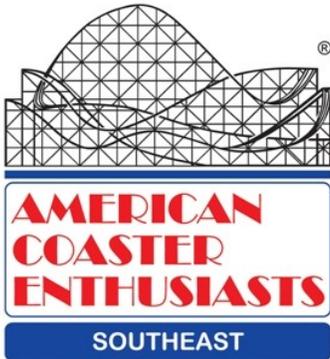
*Josh*

**Thank You!**

Thanks to Micha Hogan at Wild Adventures, Brad Malone, Dina Sims & Jehan Glikman at Six Flags Over Georgia, Talley Green at Lake Winnie and all of the other parks that help make the Southeast Region one of the best!

Thanks also to Chip Siczko, Kitty Wintemute and Kim Fowler for their tireless contributions to the newsletter.

All photos and stories by Josh Herrington unless otherwise noted.



653 Teagarden Lane  
Starkville, MS 39759

Southeastern Representatives

Josh Herrington [jherrington@aceonline.org](mailto:jherrington@aceonline.org)

Max Cannon [mcannon@aceonline.org](mailto:mcannon@aceonline.org)

Kim Fowler [kfowler@aceonline.org](mailto:kfowler@aceonline.org)

Matt Lambert [mlambert@aceonline.org](mailto:mlambert@aceonline.org)

Chip Siczko [csiczko@aceonline.org](mailto:csiczko@aceonline.org)

Andi Westland [awestland@aceonline.org](mailto:awestland@aceonline.org)

Kevin Smallhorn [ksmallhorn@aceonline.org](mailto:ksmallhorn@aceonline.org)

Robert Ulrich [rulrich@aceonline.org](mailto:rulrich@aceonline.org)

Maegen Worley [mworley@aceonline.org](mailto:mworley@aceonline.org)